



MAKING THE Connection

TO
Career Technical Education

Thursday, Jan. 5, 2017

MAKING THE CONNECTION

Life After Lincoln High School: A Vocational Pathway

By Billie Sczepaniak and Christine Zapata

Lincoln High School in the Van Dyke District of Warren has a long tradition of offering quality vocational classes in order to help interested students move directly from high school into the world of work with plenty of training under their belt.

The district opened a brand new Career Technical Education facility five years ago and currently offers programs in Culinary, Auto, Manufacturing, CAD, and Dental Assisting.

During this last few years, we have seen a large increase in the number of students who are able to secure high-demand jobs right after (or even during) high school because of the education they are receiving from our CTE staff. In order to continue to inspire our current students to consider this vocational pathway, we reached out to former LHS CTE students who are now working in the field they began back in high school.

Brandon Blair is a 2006 Lincoln grad. He completed both Manufacturing and CAD programs while in high school. With the skills he acquired, he was able to begin an entry-level position with a local manufacturing company upon graduation.

He is currently a Supply Chain Coordinator and Production Scheduler, but has aspirations to hold a senior level position within manufacturing/sales.

When asked what advice he would give to students considering a similar path, Brandon said, "Give everything a chance; it is ok to take risks. It is never too early to start planning for the future. Most importantly, ask questions and do your homework. Manufacturing has been a great career choice for me and has allowed me to gain valuable experience in many different areas within my current company Ceratizit. I can't stress enough- take advantage of the programs provided to you such as SMTEC/CTE. It is time well spent."

In 2014, Tavon Wisdom graduated from Lincoln after completing three years in the Culinary Program. Tavon's most memorable experiences during his time in Chef Ramone Herrera's class include participating in the Skills USA competitions and attending college visits to top-rated Culinary Schools. By "learning essentials such as discipline, food safety, and real job preparedness," Tavon was able to take a job as a line chef, but has plans to complete his Culinary Arts degree soon in order to open his own restaurant.

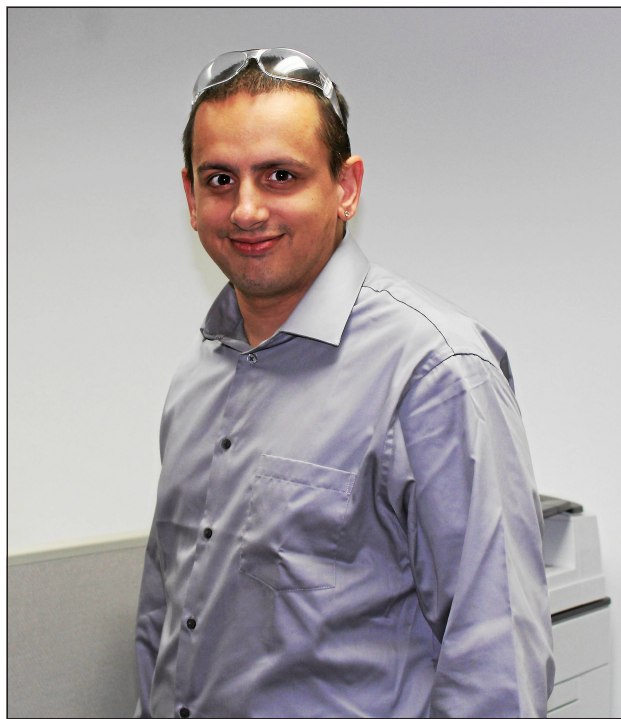
Tavon would like to leave these words of "wisdom" for current students: "The CTE program is a great stepping stone for basic knowledge mandatory for the Culinary Industry. Anyone who has the opportunity to attend Chef Herrera's, or any CTE course at Lincoln Senior High School, will benefit."

The most recently added



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Lincoln alum, Savanna Zapata, returns to the class she once took to share her experiences as a dental assistant.



Brandon Blair is a 2006 Lincoln graduate who now works as a supply chain coordinator at Ceratizit.

course to Lincoln's CTE offerings is Dental Assisting. Savanna Zapata completed this course before graduating from Lincoln in 2015.

"It is never too early to start planning for the future. Most importantly, ask questions and do your homework."

Brandon Blair

With the skills she obtained, she was quickly able to find a job as a dental assistant at Great Expressions Dental Center, in Oak Park. Savanna said she is most thankful for taking the CTE program because "the Dental Assistant course... helped me find what I wanted to do for the rest of my life, something that I will love to do

every day."

Savanna said what she likes most about her choice of field is that "the field is growing; I can always train for more credentials and move up in my company."

She leaves this advice for students considering CTE as a possible option: "Don't give up, even if you don't go to college right away. I didn't go to college until almost a year after I graduated. Even if you have a guaranteed great job after high school, see what other training or education you can get for your career, whether it gets you a better pay rate or being that person at the office who everyone asks for help when they have a problem, it will all better your life in the end."

Billie Sczepaniak is Principal of Lincoln High School. Christine Zapata is a CTE paraprofessional.



Two current LHS Culinary Arts students aim to impress Chef Herrera with their recipe.



CAD teacher Fred Cook assists current third year CAD honor student Tygee Steger with his latest design.

Anchor Bay Schools
Armada Area Schools
Center Line Public Schools
Chippewa Valley Schools
Clintondale Community Schools
East Detroit Public Schools
Fitzgerald Public Schools
Fraser Public Schools
Lake Shore Public Schools
Lakeview Public Schools
L'Anse Creuse Public Schools

For more information about CTE, contact Scott Palmer at 586.228.3488 or spalmer@misd.net



Macomb Intermediate School District
44001 Garfield Road
Clinton Township, MI 48038
586.228.3300

For more information about the MISD and the 21 school districts, go to www.misd.net

Mount Clemens Community Schools
New Haven Community Schools
Richmond Community Schools
Romeo Community Schools
Roseville Community Schools
South Lake Schools
Utica Community Schools
Van Dyke Public Schools
Warren Consolidated Schools
Warren Woods Public Schools